

Grace Church Visitor

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FORT WAYNE, INDIANA*

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No. 8

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A Rally Day Greeting

I am glad, so glad,
That you came today
And I'm hoping so much
That you have come to stay.

For I love Grace Church,
And you will love her too
And will find her the church
That was meant for you.

So here's to Grace Church,
Your church and mine,
And together we'll serve her
For now and all time.

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WHAT RALLY DAY MEANS

“In Union There is Strength.”

The most effective force is an organized force. But, comparing an organization to the time-worn symbol of a chain, it is strong insofar as every part is strong, and as the weakest part is weak even so is the organization weak. At this time the eyes of the whole world are fastened on Russia—the mighty giantess — Russia, whose boundless areas and unmeasurable resources are almost staggering to the finite mind. Yet Russia, instead of dominating all about her, is in danger of letting herself be dominated. Why? Because her potential forces are dissipating themselves through internal strife. What Russia needs is co-ordination, a strong pulling-together. This will occur, we hope, and who will then comprehend all the greatness before her?

Now picture the Church, the impressive machine of Almighty God. Designed to be the symbol of efficiency itself, it is criticised by many as the very symbol of inefficiency. And are we not forced to admit that in many respects such criticism is true? Witness the growing problem of the mid-week prayer meeting and the Sunday evening service, the failure to interest the men, the disturbing financial troubles, the conflict of sects so that some areas are over-churched and others wholly neglected, and, last but not least, the slow progress made in evangelizing the world. Save for the fact that the Church is engaged in God's work, it would have failed long ago.

The Church cannot thank itself for the success it has won; it must condemn itself for what it has **not done**. With every element of embryo success except one—and that one inefficiency—we find here a parallel between present-day Russia and the Church of God.

But in drawing this parallel we also find the answer to our problem. What is true politically is true religiously. We can get efficiency in one as we can in the other. The Church is strong. Never was an organization with greater incentive, stronger will-power, more brilliant leaders, or better morale. Yet for some reason she needs efficiency, which, after all, is so easy to get. How? In the writer's humble opinion, simply by every church member doing his or her part. In no other way will the latent powers of the Church be co-ordinated and made to accomplish the all-important ends. And now you ask: “What has this to do with the Spirit of Rally Day?” Today is Rally Day. Why all this talk of inefficiency when services are inspiring and the attendance large? Because inspiring services and large attendance are of little lasting good unless every church member is thereby influenced to do his or her part; unless we get the meaning and real spirit of Rally Day. If you are not now doing your part, and coming to church or Sunday School today is something of an innovation to you, make it your business to see that you get this spirit. The Church needs you, and you need the Church.

“MAKE EVERY DAY A RALLY DAY”

GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

The City Sunday School Association is planning a campaign for the month of October; each Sunday is to be a special day, and all the Sunday Schools are planning for these services. October 7th is Church Members Day, or Congregational Day, when it is planned to have every member of the congregation in the Sunday School. Our plans for this day, arranged before the campaign began, fit in most excellently, as we will have our Rally service on this day, being a combined Sunday School and church service, beginning at 10:00 o'clock. October 14th is the Adam and Eve contest. Who will bring out the largest attendance, the men and boys or the women and girls? This should attract a big crowd. October 21st—Family Day—when it is planned to get out as many entire families as possible. We should have a large number of our families here on that day.

October 28th—"THE Day," when it is expected to climax all previous attendances, and there will also be a mass meeting in the afternoon.

What will we get out of this? Just what we put into it. That is, our benefit will be in proportion to our efforts. We must get busy and work for each of these days, see your friends and invite them to come to your Sunday School and be sure you are there to greet them and see that they meet our people. Work and pray and work some more, never losing sight of the fact that although we are working for large attendances, the real object of the Sunday School is to reach people and present to them the Bible, as the word of God, and Jesus Christ the Savior of man. If we lose sight of this the largest Sunday attendance will be without any lasting influence and will have missed its real purpose.

Miss Mabel Weickert spent a Sunday recently at Edgerton, Ohio.

THE CROSS AND CROWN REWARD SYSTEM

Beginning with our Rally Day service, October 7th, the Sunday School will adopt Little's Cross and Crown system of rewards. This has been in use for a long time in many of our schools and all report excellent results. The plan of the system is as follows: Each member of the Sunday School is presented with a celluloid pin. As soon as any scholar has attended thirteen consecutive Sundays, he or she may exchange this pin for a bronze pin; after attending thirteen more consecutive Sundays the bronze pin is exchanged for a silver pin, which upon the completion of the fourth series of thirteen Sundays is exchanged for the gold pin, which the scholar is allowed to keep. One of the points of advantage is that if a scholar is obliged to miss a Sunday they can start over again and just as soon as they have attended thirteen Sundays without missing one they will be entitled to the reward. Any scholar who is too ill to attend and brings an excuse for the day will be counted as present (this, of course, does not mean the petty Sunday ailments that so frequently afflict some people). The children in the Primary Department and Junior classes will be given reward cards for each Sunday they attend. We believe from the interest that is being shown that the reward system is going to be very popular with our scholars.

Mrs. Margaret Boger, of Reidmiller avenue, spent several days recently as the guest of a friend, Mrs. Freese, of Huntertown, Ind. While there she attended the Fair.

The children of the Orphans' Home, about ninety in all, attended morning service on September 23d. They were brought to the church in autos furnished by church members. The children all seemed to enjoy the service, and the members of the church enjoyed having them there.

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

Published monthly by the Young Men's Agenda Class.

George M. Shiffer.....Editor-in-Chief
E. W. Baumgartner.....Business Manager
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THE SPIRIT OF RALLY DAY

Did you ever stop to consider what a poor showing one grape would make if it hung on the vine by itself? But what is more luscious and inviting than a cluster of nice ripe grapes? So it is with you individual church members. You need to be one of the crowd to make your work count. That's why we have Rally Day—to show you how much better it is to join the folks of the church than to pursue your way through the big world alone.

What Would Happen If—

The preacher found a crowded house at prayer meeting Wednesday evening?

If all the young folks who come to Sunday School would stay for church next Sunday?

If every church member gave the Lord at least a tenth part of his income?

If those who have automobiles would bring a few "shut-ins" to church without being asked?

If folks ceased to stay at home because it is too cold in winter and too hot in summer?

If the men would out-number the women in church some Sunday?

If every member of Grace Church supported the Visitor by subscribing at the rate of twenty-five cents a year?

If those who have plenty of time would do the work of the church and not leave it to those who have very little time?

If the men of the church were all eager and ready to serve on the consistory?

If every church member lived up to the promises he or she made when taken into the church?

A Little Church Mouse Says—

Automobiles are nice to have, but they would be much nicer if they did not keep so many folks away from church.

And while we think of it—are you not lots better off than many folks you know? And what are you doing in return?

Did it ever occur to you that the united and individual prayers of all of God's people might bring the present war to an end much sooner?

How surprising it is that some folks always hunt the back pews in church! Would someone please tell us what is so attractive about the back pews anyhow?

HEIDELBERG HAPPENINGS

The September meeting was held at the home of Mrs. E. A. Close in Penn Place. There was a good attendance and arrangements were made to begin the fall work. Plans were also made for an entertainment to be given near Hallowe'en, definite announcement of which will come later.

The class showed its spirit by having a sale of home-baked goods on Saturday, September 22d, on the Public Market. There was added to the class treasury \$10.20, and so far as is known no-one had any serious results from eating our baked goods.

The October business meeting will occur on Thursday, October 12th, at the home of Mrs. O. B. Crum, 426 Packard avenue. This would be a good time for any young married lady to come and get acquainted with our class.

Mrs. J. W. Shiffer and family, of South Clinton street, had as their guests for a few days, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Shiffer, of Williamsport, Pa.

The ladies of the Missionary Society will meet on October 18th at the home of Mrs. Knight on Randolph street. Assisting hostesses will be Mrs. Boerger and Mrs. Rose Certia.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

W. F. Close, Supt.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES

While we are well pleased with our attendances for the summer, there is one thing that we regret to note, and that is the absence of new scholars. We have put in some time getting back many scholars who have not been attending and have been quite successful, too, but now let us make a drive for new scholars. Why not make our enrollment 250 before the end of this year? We can do it, too.

There seems to be a slight falling off in attendance in the Primary and Beginners' classes, due to some scholars being promoted to other classes and no new ones coming in to take their places. There are a great many children in our homes between the ages of four and ten years who should be in these classes. The impressions made upon these childish minds will go with them through their whole lives and the early teaching of the Bible through the Sunday School lessons will never be forgotten. Now if the parents should find out what these little ones are learning, the great care taken by the teachers to present "God's Truths" in a simple way, we would have a large number of new scholars in the Primary and Beginners' grades.

The Junior Helps, Blue Birds and David's Companions will use the new graded lessons, just published by our Board. The Primary classes will also use the latest graded lessons.

The Excelsior Class has been using the International lessons for the past quarter and now the True Blue, Altruist and Miyagi classes are going to try them for three months. We want the opinion of teachers and scholars as to their preference of lessons as we are anxious to supply our classes with what they can best use, and from which they will derive the most benefit.

Three months of activity left in this year. What are we going to accomplish? What will our gain be by January 1, 1918?

How about the Cradle Roll? We want every baby up to four years on the roll. If you know of one that is not enrolled, let us know. •

PROGREDA CLASS NEWS

If wisdom's ways you wisely seek,

Five things observe with care—

To whom you speak, of whom you speak,

And how, and when, and where.

The September business meeting was held at the Allen County Orphans' Home, being entertained by Miss Lydia Shroer, a teacher at the Home. We were all hoping that we might return sometime and again visit the children of the Home, and were glad when our hostess assured us that we would be welcome any time.

The girls all enjoyed a picnic the early part of September at Robison Park. The day was rather cold but we did not have a cold time; on the other hand, we all had a very good time.

Vacation days are over and our fall work is here. Now, what part of the work are you going to do? Will you put your shoulder to the wheel and help the cause along? If you believe in our work, tell others; if not, tell us—but above all things, do not say you are with us in a class meeting and then go out and be a slacker. Be on the job at all times.

Know that little hands can be useful too,

That the harvest is ripe and the laborers few.

Miss Mae Siebold spent a week at Lake James recently.

Little Eleanor Baldwin is gradually getting better and is now hoping to be back in the Sunday School soon.

AGENDA ACTIVITIES

On the evening of August 30th, the Agenda Class enjoyed a wienie bake at Maples, given by Mrs. Dinger in honor of our Brother Earl. While we didn't have as large a crowd as we should have had, we certainly made up for it in fun. After eating our fill of Hot Dogs (also scorching our fingers), our friend Earl uncovered a bushel basket of pop corn and it is safe to say the basket was a whole lot lighter going back to the house than it was going out. After drinking the well dry, we had a merry ride home with an evening to be remembered.

We can assure you our Pastor is a very careful driver, as he almost went into the ditch trying to avoid running over a dummy that happened to be in the road.

The Agenda September business meeting was held at the home of Ralph and Floyd Siebold with a very good attendance.

Another pet in the Agenda Class. Mr. Oscar Deahl is the owner. Yes, it's a flivver.

Someone has told our Pastor and Mr. Shiffer that they fatten hogs on corn because they, with the reporter, tried to eat the whole basketful themselves.

A Challenge

The above named and ourself hereby challenge any three men in the Church at eating pop corn—providing, someone else pops it.

It was good to have Earl Dinger with us once again, but he certainly is doing a noble work and we wish him all the success in the world.

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C. E. TOPICS FOR OCTOBER

Oct. 7.—Christ's Yoke; What Is is and How to Wear It. Matt. 11: 25-20. Consecration meeting. Prayer meeting committee.

Oct. 14.—What is Committed to You? (Committee work meeting). II Tim. 1: 1-14. The Lookout committee.

Oct. 21.—Putting Religion into Politics. (Good Citizenship Day). Isa. 1: 10-George Shiffer.

Oct. 28.—Ministering to Christ. (Work for prisoners, strangers, the sick.) Matt. 25: 31-31. Missionary committee.

The Christian Endeavor Society had its September meeting at the home of the Misses Weikert in Clark street. A large number of Endeavorers were present and everyone enjoyed a fine time. C. E. members, don't forget we have a business meeting the second Tuesday in each month.

The Mary B. Hoy Missionary Circle met at the home of Mrs. Leikauf Monday evening, Sept. 3d. Miss Elsie Weikert led the devotions and Mrs. Edith Benninghoff had charge of the lesson study. After finishing an interesting study of missions in India the class will now take up the wonderful country of China. Every young lady of the church should come and join this class. They will find it very instructive. A welcome is extended to all.

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